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Carter, Aides Meet on Cuba

Gromyko And Vance End Talks

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President Carter holds a second urgent meeting with his national security advisers today to consider U.S. actions over failure of talks with the Soviet Union to resolve the problem of their troops in Cuba.

Carter met with the advisers for an hour last night following a private report from Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance on Vance's three-hour meeting in New York with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko.

Vance and Gromyko emerged from the meeting looking somber and saying nothing about their discussions except that they were serious. But the Soviet refusal to yield to American efforts to eliminate the troops' combat capabilities was indicated by Gromyko's statement that he would fly home today — skipping a side trip he often takes from a United Nations session to talk with the president in Washington.

No further meetings with the Soviets on the troop issue were announced. Although officials cautioned reporters that more could be held, they left an impression of a breakdown of U.S. efforts to negotiate a solution.

The Soviets have never seemed willing to negotiate. In seven meetings that Vance held with Gromyko or Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin, they apparently rebuffed all U.S. efforts to obtain a change in the troops' status. The Soviet press agency Tass reiterated yesterday the Kremlin position that Washington had created an artificial crisis.

As Vance was flying back to Washington last night, presidential advisers gathered in the cabinet room. Vance briefed Carter for about 25 minutes before they joined the others, who had been meeting for an hour.

The group included Vice President Walter F. Mondale, Defense Secretary Harold Brown and his deputy W. Graham Claytor, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff Gen. David C. Jones, CIA head Stansfield Turner, national security adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski, budget director James T. McIntyre, presidential adviser Hedley Donovan, counsel Lloyd Cutler, chief of staff Hamilton Jordan, and Vance's deputy Warren Christopher.

Press secretary Jody Powell said after the meetings ended at 10:30 p.m. that approximately the same group would meet this morning at an expanded version of the president's regular Friday breakfast with foreign policy advisers. Powell said he still expected Carter to report to the American people on the situation by Tuesday, as he had promised last Tuesday.

Carter had said then that he would take some unspecified "appropriate action" if the Soviet Union failed to agree on changing the status of the 2,000 to 3,000 troops.

Carter has been studying options for trying to offset a Soviet refusal by U.S. actions, and his advisers were believed to have gone over them last night. Officials have emphasized that the president is not contemplating military action against the Soviet troops.

They have instead implied some forms of retaliation against other Soviet interest. The intention would be to assert American power and ability to make the Kremlin pay for an infringement of U.S. sensitivities about areas close to its shores.

While considering possible actions, Carter has also been trying to consolidate broad public support behind him. His effort signified the seriousness with which the White House viewed the prospect of a worsening of Soviet-American relations.

Vance warned Monday that a Soviet refusal to work out something

could cause relations to deteriorate dangerously.

In addition to whatever effect the impasse on the Soviet troops and U.S. retaliatory actions might have on relations, the international atmosphere will be affected by a breakdown of arms control talks resulting from an American failure to ratify the new strategic arms limitations treaty, SALT II. The administration has little hope of getting it through the Senate so long as it is unable to budge the Soviets on Cuba.

Officials disclosed yesterday that Carter had asked a small group of prominent Americans to advise him on the situation. It included two former secretaries of state, Dean Rusk and Henry A. Kissinger. Kissinger has already publicly supported the administration position on the troop issue.

Carter had earlier asked seven other prominent Americans to review the intelligence on the Soviet troops. The Kremlin has denied the conclusion that the administration drew from the data, that the troops constituted a combat brigade, and insists instead that they are just a training mission.

The review group is led by Clark M. Clifford, an adviser to Democratic presidents since Harry S. Truman and defense secretary at the end of Lyndon B. Johnson's presidency.

Other members whose names were announced yesterday were McGeorge Bundy, national security adviser to President John F. Kennedy; John J. McCloy, assistant secretary of war during World War II and holder of many important jobs in rebuilding Europe afterward; former CIA head John A. McCone; David Packard, deputy secretary of defense in 1969-71; Sol M. Linowitz, ambassador to the Organization of American States in 1966-69 and a negotiator of the Panama Canal treaties; and Lt. Gen. Brent Scowcroft, national security adviser to President Gerald R. Ford.